

if you worked hard and paid into the system you would have access to quality healthcare in retirement. To this day, Medicare continues to provide health insurance coverage for millions of Americans age 65 and older, and adults with permanent disabilities. Medicare, along with Social Security, is a sacred trust that I have consistently fought to preserve and one that we must continue to protect for the 54 million Americans enrolled in Medicare today—and those who will enroll throughout our nation's tomorrows.

Amended and improved throughout the years, Medicare has come to play a key role in providing health coverage to millions of Americans. The Social Security Amendments of 1965, established Medicaid to ensure low-income families have access to healthcare; Social Security Amendments of 1972, extended Medicare eligibility to individuals under age 65 with long-term disabilities; then later the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2006, established the Medicare Advantage program and a new landmark prescription drug benefit known as Medicare Part D.

In addition to large scale changes to the program, I have supported and worked on policies that address specific aspects of Medicare to both raise the quality of life for beneficiaries while also saving the program money in the long run. For example, I authored legislation that was signed into law (PL 100-203) to provide Medicare coverage for therapeutic shoes for seniors with severe diabetic foot disease. At the time, Medicare covered costly amputations—which an estimated 25,600 seniors received annually—but not the therapeutic shoes that would prevent the need for those amputations. The American Diabetes Association estimated that my bill would save Medicare over \$100 million in one year alone, while the affordable and available foot care would spare seniors the trauma of an amputation.

And my work to sustain and protect the program continues. Earlier this year I was pleased to lend my support to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (PL: 114-10) which finally repealed the flawed SGR—the statutory method for determining the annual update to the Medicare physician fee schedule. Previous temporary patches to the SGR were unsustainable and unproductive, leaving seniors questioning if they could visit their own doctors if the so-called patches were not extended.

A final repeal of the SGR modernizes the formula for determining Medicare reimbursements and will help the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid transition to a new system intended to incentivize quality of care and overall health improvements. This law allows seniors to retain access to quality healthcare, establishes predictability for the doctors who treat Medicare beneficiaries, and continues to give seniors the security and confidence they need when making healthcare decisions.

With that work successfully accomplished, we can and must do even more to strengthen Medicare and ensure the healthcare needs of all seniors are met, now and into the future.

Accordingly, yesterday, I introduced the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Innovation Act. My new bill, introduced with a group of bipartisan cosponsors—including the lead Democratic cosponsor Rep. EARL BLUMENAUER, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health Chairman

KEVIN BRADY and Ranking Member JIM MCDERMOTT—will allow CMS to test models that bring PACE's effective care plans to more seniors as well as individuals with disabilities.

By way of background, PACE is an effective, integrated and community-based program that works to raise quality of life of senior citizens, while keeping them in their homes and supporting their independence. It delivers the entire range of medical and long-term services including: medical care and prescription drug services; physical or occupational therapy; day or respite care; and medical specialties, such as dentistry, optometry, and podiatry.

Currently, participating in a PACE program is limited to those aged 55 and older who meet state-specified criteria for needing a nursing home level of care (LOC). However, many populations—including younger individuals, people with multiple chronic conditions and disabilities, seniors who need comprehensive care but do not yet meet the nursing home LOC standard—could benefit from the all-inclusive nature of the PACE model.

Having worked to bring the first PACE program to New Jersey, St. Francis Medical Center's Living Independently for the Elderly (LIFE) in Trenton, I've personally visited seniors who are enrolled in PACE and witnessed how this important program works to raise the quality of life of its enrollees. Today over 100 PACE programs are serving seniors throughout the country including four, soon to be five, centers in my home state of New Jersey. This bill is important to build on the success of the program and make it better, offering better comprehensive care and preserving the dignity of those most deserving of our care and attention.

To further strengthen the Medicare system and aid those individuals and families who are facing the reality of Alzheimer's disease, I also recently introduced the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (HR 1559). My HOPE Act would provide for Medicare coverage of a care-planning session for newly diagnosed patients and their family caregivers or legal representatives.

Mr. Speaker, my Alzheimer's legislation will fill an important gap in current Medicare services. Take for example an experience of one of my constituents, Mary Gerard of Ocean New Jersey. Mary was one of the 15 million family members and friends who act as unpaid caregivers to Alzheimer's and dementia patients across the country every year.

When her mother Helen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Mary took charge and was there with her mother day in and day out—faithfully and lovingly—until she passed. She is a trained critical care nurse. She was equipped with knowledge and resources that many first time caregivers do not have. Yet even with a medical services background, she still struggled with the challenges of her new life as a caregiver.

Alzheimer's caregivers provide an estimated 17 billion hours of unpaid care every year. The emotional and financial toll can be immense. Many are untrained and offered little guidance to function in their new role. Navigating the long-term care system is a daunting task and can appear overwhelming, particularly for those who have only recently received the news that a loved one has Alzheimer's disease.

Upon receiving this diagnosis, patients and their families—like Mary's—are frequently at a loss for how to effectively plan for the next

stage of their lives. Passage of my legislation will empower individuals with much-needed information to outline their future treatments and care—giving patients HOPE, and a plan for their future.

As our population ages, it is imperative that we preserve and expand access to the services that enable senior citizens to live healthy and productive lives, and give seniors the security and confidence they need when planning for their future medical care.

Strengthening and preserving Medicare is a promise that every preceding generation has made and kept. It is our duty to continue to honor the senior citizens in New Jersey and around the country who have worked hard to provide for their families and help build our communities and deliver on promises made, for—at a minimum—another 50 years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. KERI LEE SMITH OF ROSEVILLE, CA

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keri Lee Smith of Roseville, CA, as she celebrates her 50th birthday today, July 29, 2015.

A fourth generation Californian, Keri Lee is an active member in the community of Roseville. Keri graduated from CSU Chico in 1988, earning a BS in Business with a minor in Recreation Administration. She received her teaching credentials from CSU Chico in 1991. She later earned a Masters of Education from the University of LaVerne and received a G.A.T.E. certificate from UC Davis. Keri has been teaching for over a decade in the greater Roseville area, and currently teaches math and life sciences at Western Sierra Collegiate Academy in Rocklin and educates future teachers as a professor at Chapman University.

Agriculture has long been a part of Keri Lee's life. She was born in Chico and raised on a family farm her great-grandfather began in 1918 in Clarks Valley, part of the California coastal range. Later, the farming operation moved to Butte City near the Sacramento River, where her siblings continue the enterprise today. When she's not teaching, Keri finds time to be an active member of the California Women in Agriculture.

Keri Lee is a loving wife to her husband Scott and a dedicated mother to their three children: Emma, Garret, and Maddox. Keri spends much of her time shuttling the children between sports and scouts, cheering them on at ball fields, and shaping them into confident future leaders. Her role as a mother also includes service as the President of the Roseville High School Parents Club, a Girl Scout Troop Leader, and a member of the Parent-Teacher Council. In her limited spare time, Keri enjoys to read, bake, and travel.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Keri Lee Smith on this special day, and in wishing her a happy 50th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMOS
LYNCH

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life achievements of Amos H. Lynch, Sr.

Amos served as a leader in civil rights, business, and journalism in Columbus and throughout Ohio. Amos was relentless in pushing for a more equal and prosperous city, state, and country and he inspired a generation to continue to improve on his vision. The City of Columbus is a better place because of Amos' efforts and dedication. I am honored to have known him.

When Amos graduated from Columbus South High School in 1943, he had already spent years writing for neighborhood papers. He would go on to establish three newspapers in Columbus: the Ohio Sentinel, the Call and Post, and the Columbus Post. As a student at The Ohio State University at the height of World War II, he was drafted into the Navy and served the next three years treating wounded members of the military in New York and Illinois.

During his 2013 induction into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame, he stated "I learned early in my life that the written word is the most powerful tool for acquiring equal civil rights for all, and that newspapers were the best method for getting the word out." Amos tirelessly called for greater economic opportunities for African-Americans and integration in schools and housing.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Amos for his devotion to the great state of Ohio and to all of the communities that have benefitted from his invaluable contributions.

HONORING MS. SHAR KNUTSON

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Shar Knutson, who on October 15th, 2015 will retire from her post as the first woman to serve as president of Minnesota AFL-CIO. Ms. Knutson has led the 300,000-member state branch of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) since 2009.

The Labor movement runs deep for Ms. Knutson, who was raised in a union family and worked a union job as a single parent, experiencing firsthand the benefits of organizing for improving lives.

Prior to her election in August 2009, Ms. Knutson served as president of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation for a decade. One of her signature victories occurred in 1999, when she led a coalition of labor and community leaders to successfully oppose then-St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman's effort to outsource the city's public water works to a non-union firm.

Before her union work, she was a policy analyst to former St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel, specializing in labor, health and immigration issues. She served on the Greater Twin Cities United Way board as well as the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Advisory Council.

As head of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, Ms. Knutson helped lead the coalition that successfully raised Minnesota's minimum wage, coordinated efforts that kept a "Right to Work" constitutional amendment off the ballot, and increased political participation among union members. Also under her leadership, the Minnesota AFL-CIO successfully passed legislation extending unemployment benefits for locked out workers, opened up new avenues for women and young workers to be involved in the labor movement, and built an infrastructure to support affiliate unions in their organizing efforts.

I am privileged to recognize the decades of tireless advocacy of Ms. Shar Knutson, whose contributions to Minnesota's workers will be felt for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS AT
MOYERS CORNERS FIRE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Chief Frank Crispin, Deputy Chief Steve Zaferakis, Firefighter Phil Vogt, Firefighter Ryan Whitmore, and Firefighter Jeremy Corsaro of the Moyers Corners Fire Department. On December 25, 2014, Moyers Corners Fire Department was alerted to a residential fire in Liverpool, New York. Upon arrival, these five members of the Fire Department were advised that there were victims within the residence. Working collectively, these firefighters quickly rescued the two individuals trapped within the residence. Without hesitation, upon removing the victims from the residence, these firefighters began emergency medical efforts on the victims, one of which was found to be in full cardiac arrest. Due to the rescue and life-saving medical efforts of these firefighters, both victims survived the incident, were transported to Upstate Hospital, and are recovering from their injuries.

The bravery and heroism of Deputy Chief Crispin, Deputy Chief Zaferakis, Firefighter Vogt, Firefighter Whitmore, and Firefighter Corsaro displayed on Christmas Day of 2014, have earned them the 2015 Firemen's Association of the State of New York's Firefighters of the Year Award. I am proud to recognize these courageous individuals for their service to Central New York and congratulate them on their receipt of the FASNY 2015 Firefighters of the Year Award.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SILVETTE WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th Anniversary of the Silvette Women's Golf Club of Staten Island.

Established in 1935, the Silvette Women's Golf Club is the oldest women's public golf club in the State of New York. The Silvettes started out as a group of ten women who came together to organize friendly tournaments. After only three years, the Silvettes grew in membership as their weekly tournaments became increasingly popular with a prize of two dollars for first and second place.

The Silvettes continue to play in many tournaments as well as interclub matches with other women's golf clubs in New York and New Jersey. However, their most important event is the annual Silvette Memorial Classic. On the first day of the Classic, the Silvettes meet in the morning on the green of the 6th hole and in a gesture of remembrance, each golfer draws the name of a deceased Silvette and plays in her memory.

Throughout their history, the Silvettes have been active in their community, and have held many tournaments to benefit various charities over the years. Their dedication to the game and their community shows why the Silvettes have had such a presence since 1935.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring the Silvette Women's Golf Club of Staten Island on their 80th Anniversary.

HONORING CASA ALLEGRA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Casa Allegra Community Services (CACS), which has been providing residential support, community integration and income earning opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in the San Francisco Bay Area for four decades.

In 1975, Chris Bonfiglio and Eileen Falvey co-founded CACS in San Rafael, California to provide housing for five young people with disabilities facing unexpected homelessness. They not only succeeded in their goal, but have grown the organization significantly from its origins. Today CACS runs two long-term care homes along with numerous living, educational, and career programs for individuals with disabilities in seven counties across the region.

The hard work undertaken by the staff and leadership at CACS has impacted many in its 40 years. CACS' efforts extend beyond meeting basic needs—which it performs well and with compassion—by striving to encourage people with disabilities to lead meaningful lives.

CACS has played a crucial and necessary role in our community by serving as a voice for those who need it most. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank Casa Allegra Community Services on their 40th Anniversary for their commitment to bettering the lives of those with disabilities.